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successfully. He will realize that geography is not a book, and that it is not in a book, though there are books *about geography* which are helpful.

R. D. S.

Syllabus on a Course of Eighty-seven Lectures on Modern European History (1600-1890). By H. MORSE STEPHENS, Professor of Modern European History in Cornell University. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899. Price \$1.60.

THIS book is not for the general reader. It is intended primarily as a guide for the author's classes in Cornell University, and, no doubt, will serve its purpose well. It has grown out of the academic condition existing in that university, and is intended to satisfy the demands of her curriculum. All the principal facts to be touched on in the lecture are arranged in their proper order, and an immense number of exact dates is given. This leaves the lecturer the far pleasanter task of elucidating the facts and of showing their importance and interrelation. On the other hand, the student is spared an immense amount of laborious note-taking, and may give his attention wholly to the professor's interpretation. Each lecture is provided with a bibliography which will aid the student in his private study. While no two professors can easily use the same arrangement of facts many lecturers in this field will probably be able to adapt this syllabus to their own peculiarities and to the needs of their classes to their mutual advantage.

OLIVER J. THATCHER

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

Side Lights on American History. By HENRY W. ELSON, A.M. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1899. Cloth, pp. xvi + 398. 75 cents.

As no secondary-school text-book of United States history is so comprehensive as to make it unnecessary for the student to read largely of both source material and the larger historical narrative, any device is welcome which promises to reduce the difficulties attaching to the selection of this outside reading and bring well-chosen material to the teacher's and student's use. It has been the purpose of Mr. Elson to occupy middle ground between the necessarily condensed text-book

and the ponderous volumes of the historian, and to thus furnish some of the needed supplementary reading. The subjects chosen are "not the dramatic and exciting but the strategic points, the pivots on which the ponderous machinery of our history has turned," and cover the period of the first seventy years of our national history. These are well selected, and the narrative is comprehensive, accurate and interesting.

Without overlooking the helpfulness and need of contact on the part of the student with the historical authorities themselves, it may be safely said that this book will have much value in the direction of its purpose.

WAYLAND J. CHASE

THE MORGAN PARK ACADEMY